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2022

FCBD

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

SEGA®

"DEEP TROUBLE"

STORY
IAN FLYNN

ART
BRACARDI CURRY

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

"PRELUDE TO DISASTER"

STORY
DAVID MARIOTTE

ART
VARIOUS

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

COVER BY
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

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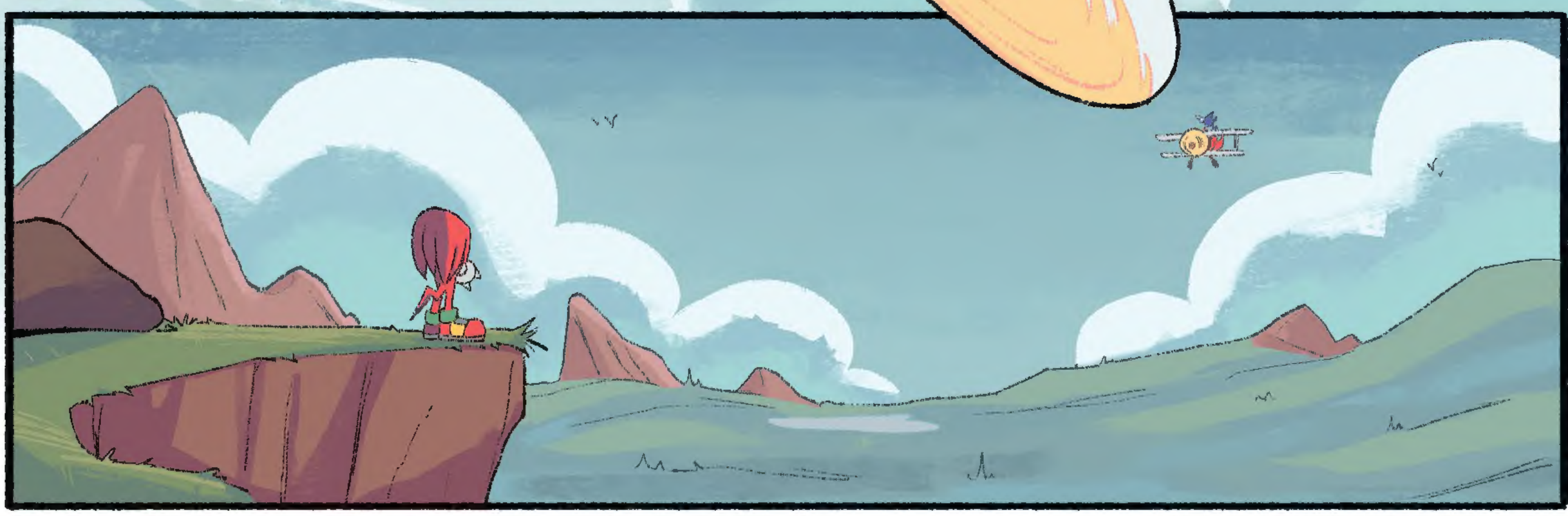
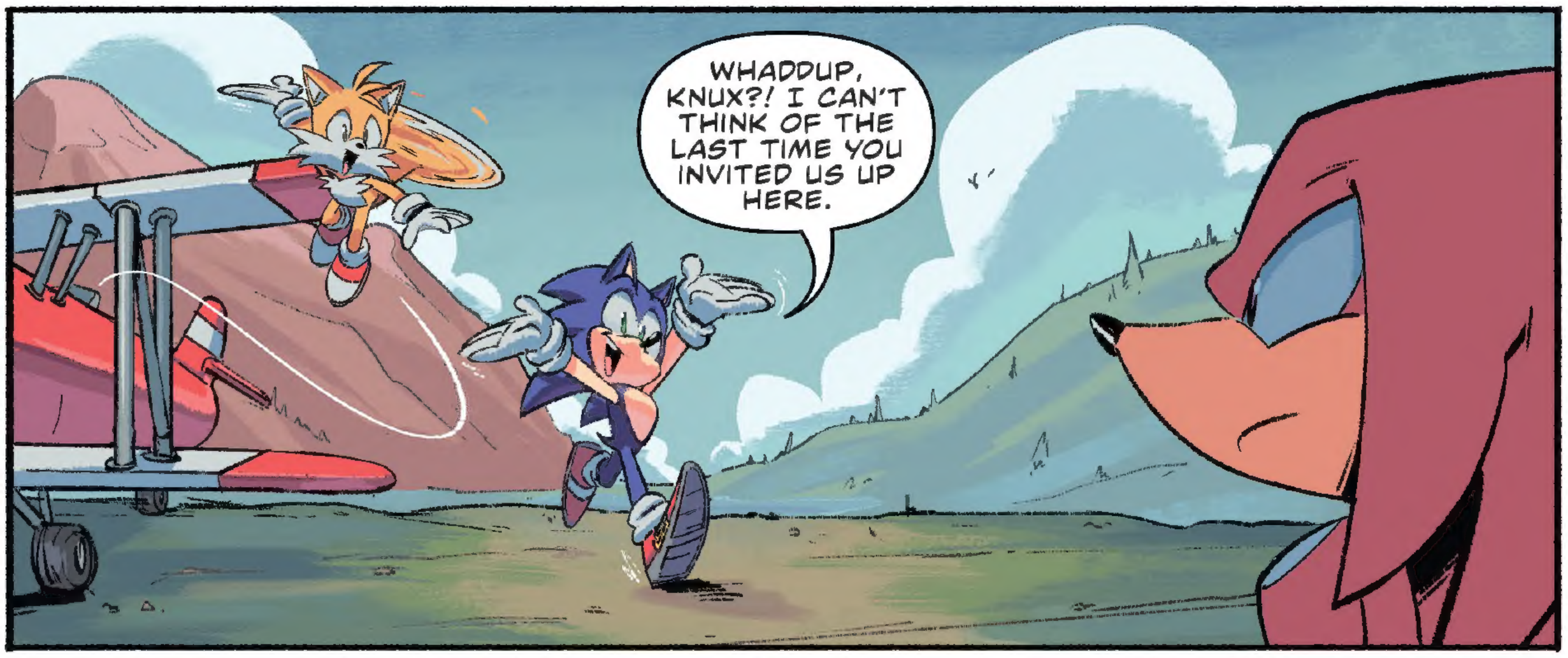
THERE SHE IS--*ANGEL ISLAND!*

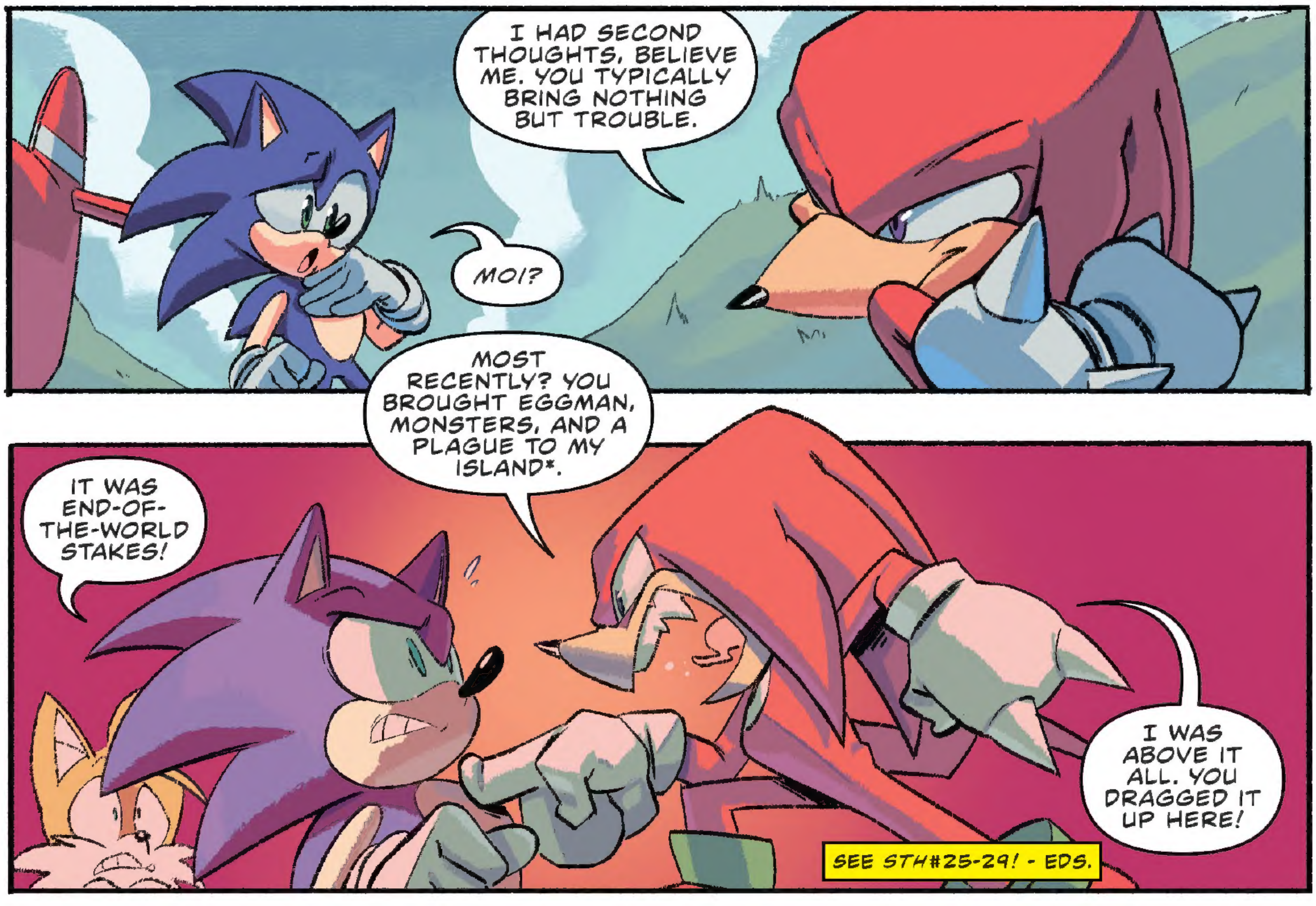
I'LL *NEVER* GET TIRED OF THAT VIEW.

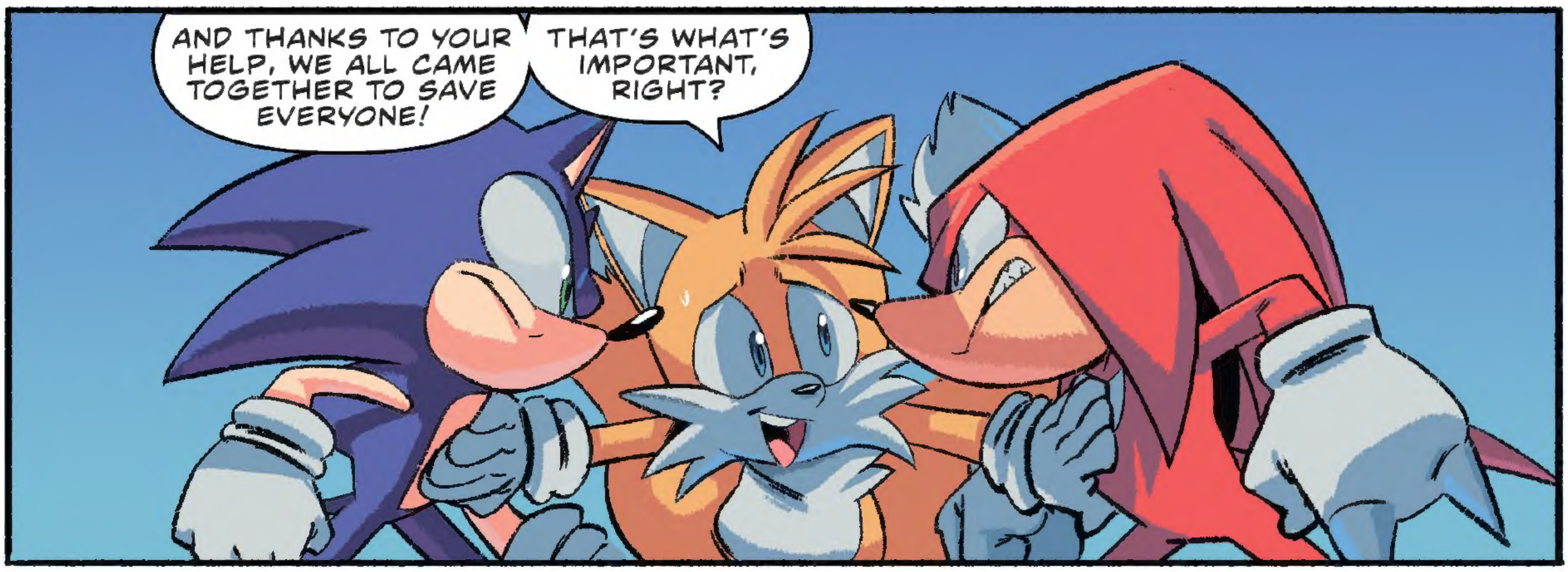
BRACE YOURSELF! I'M BRINGING US DOWN!

DEEP TROUBLE




WHADDUP, KNUX?! I CAN'T THINK OF THE LAST TIME YOU INVITED US UP HERE.

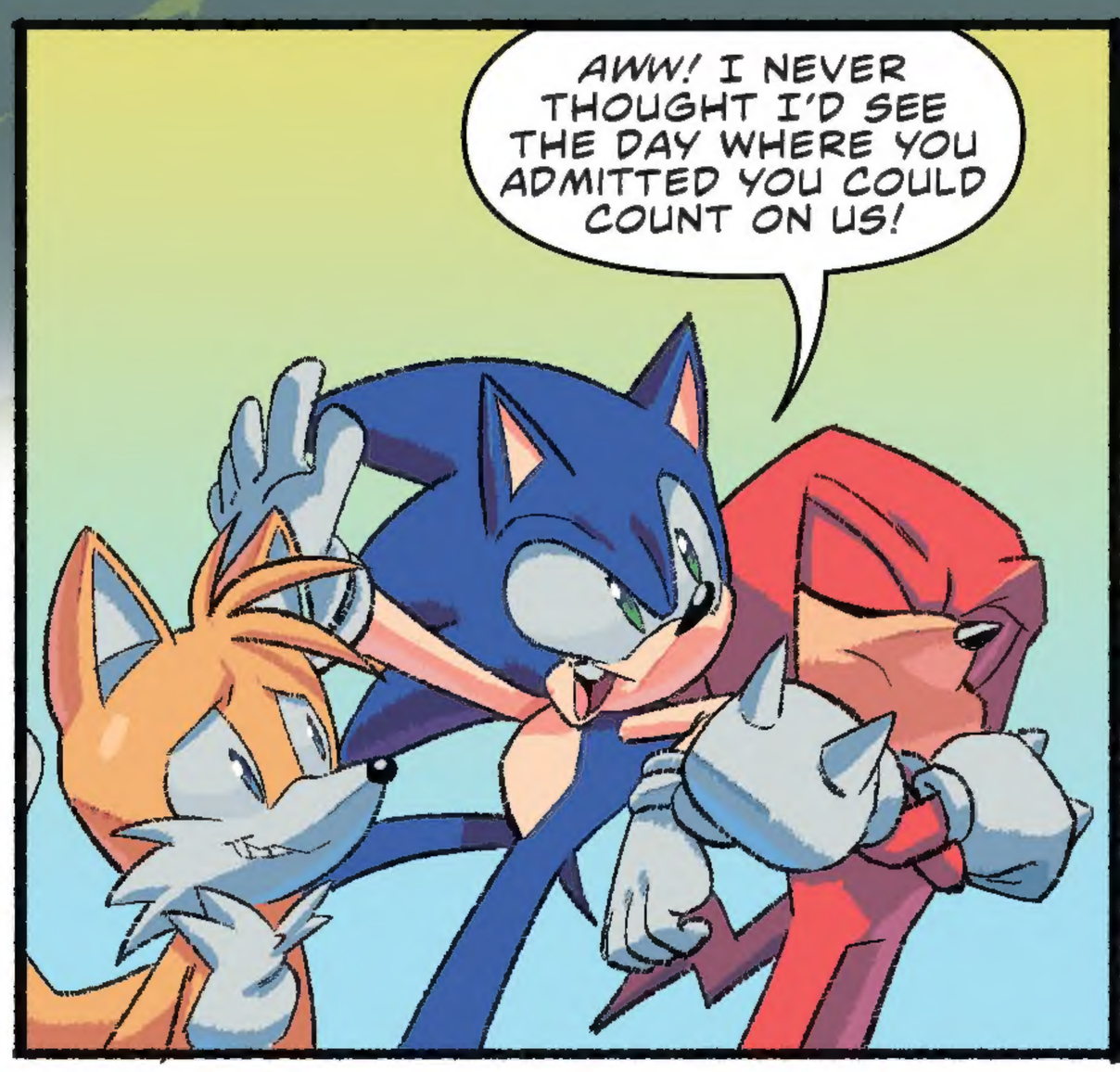

I HAD SECOND THOUGHTS, BELIEVE ME. YOU TYPICALLY BRING NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
MOI?
MOST RECENTLY? YOU BROUGHT EGGMAN, MONSTERS, AND A PLAGUE TO MY ISLAND*.
IT WAS END-OF-THE-WORLD STAKES!
I WAS ABOVE IT ALL. YOU DRAGGED IT UP HERE!
SEE STH#25-29! - EDS.


AND THANKS TO YOUR HELP, WE ALL CAME TOGETHER TO SAVE EVERYONE!
THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT, RIGHT?

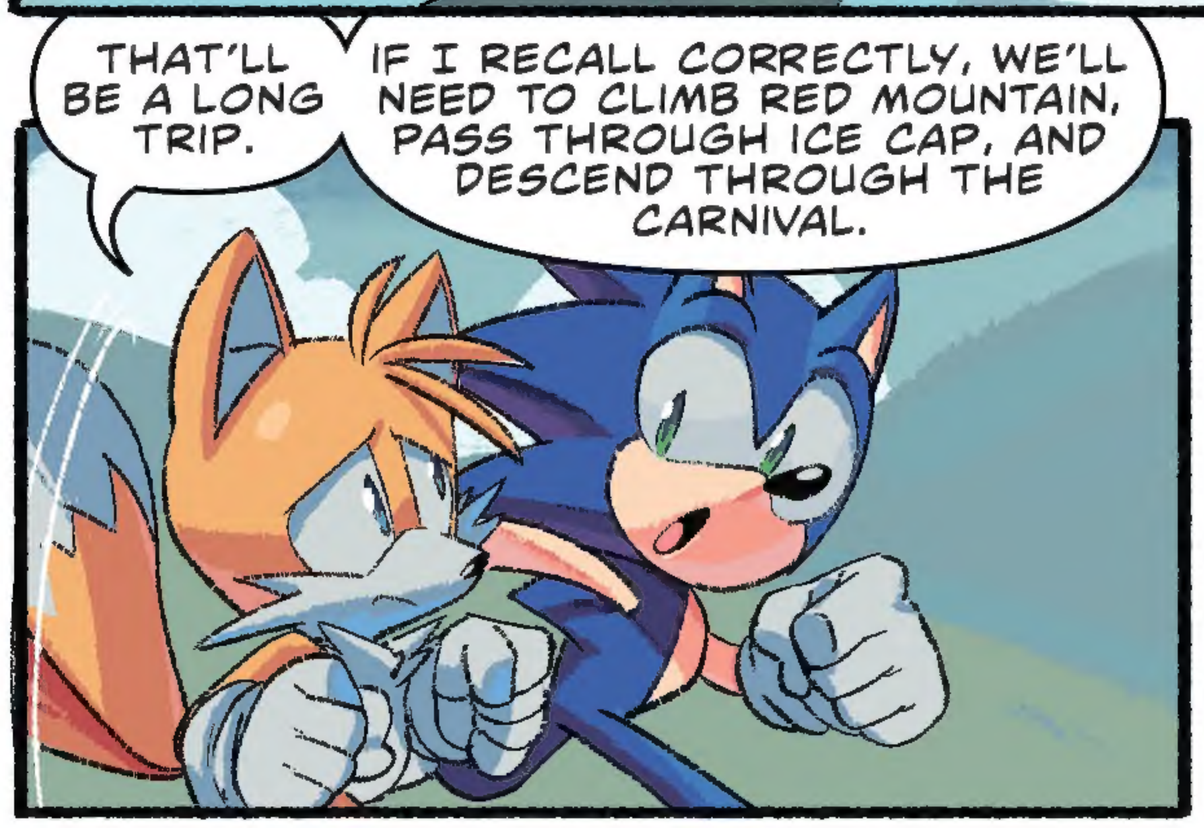
YOU'RE RIGHT.

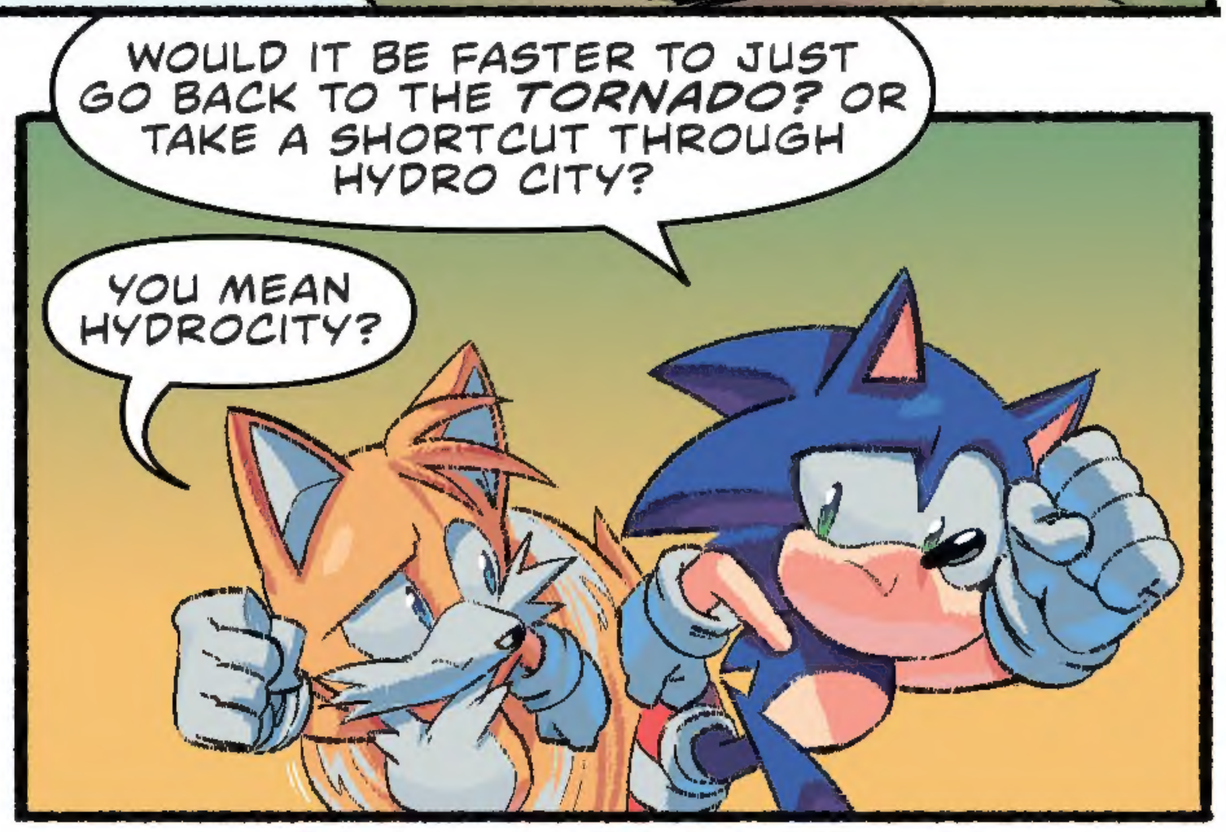
WHICH IS WHY I CALLED YOU TWO HERE.

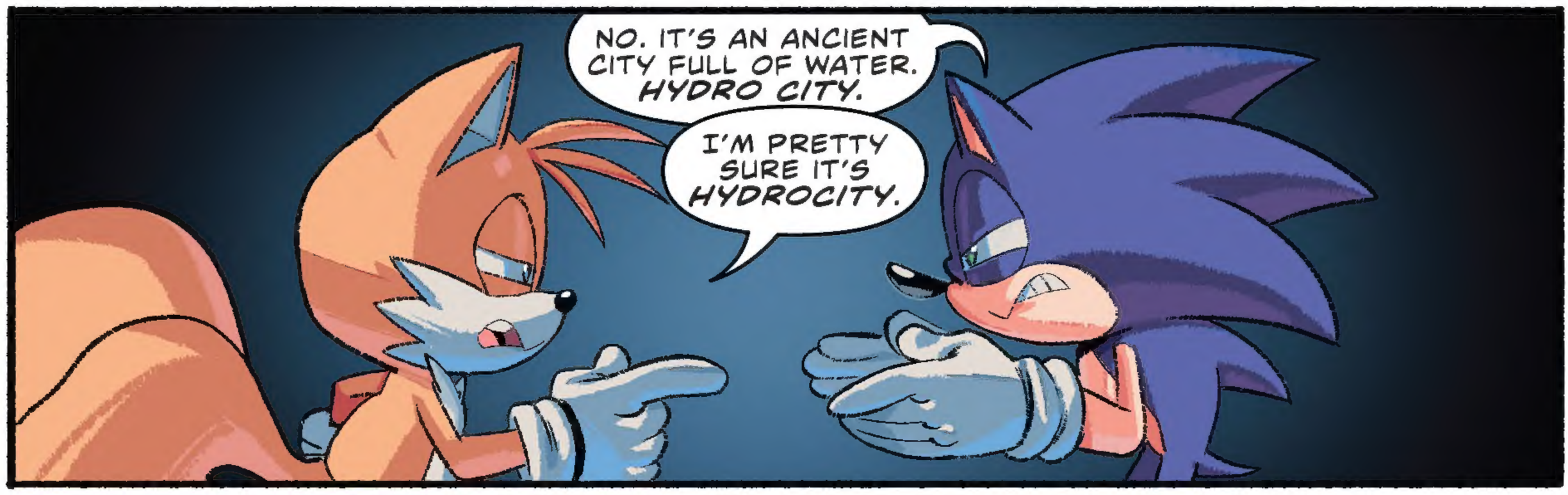
THERE'S BEEN SOME STRANGE RUMBLINGS IN MARBLE GARDEN. WE WORK WELL TOGETHER SO--FOR ONCE--I THOUGHT I'D CALL IN SOME HELP.

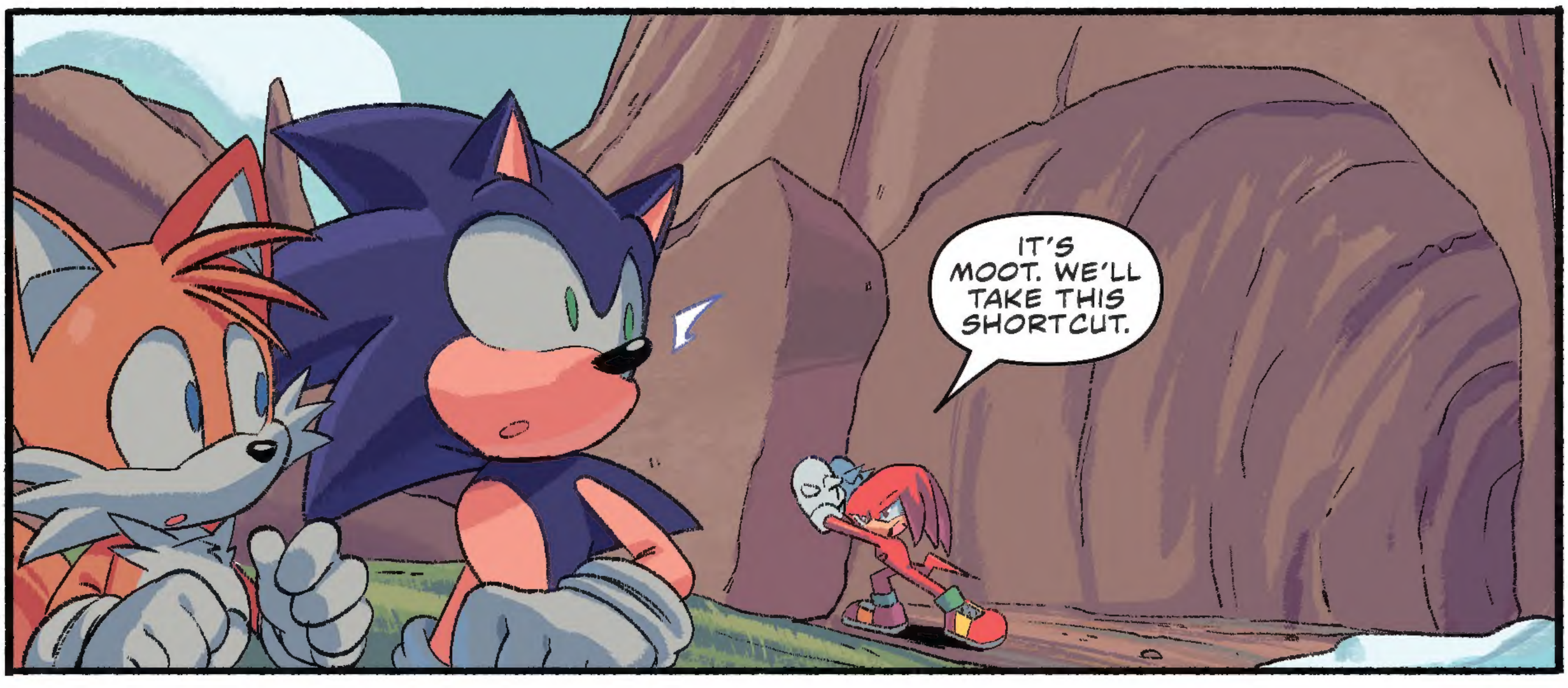


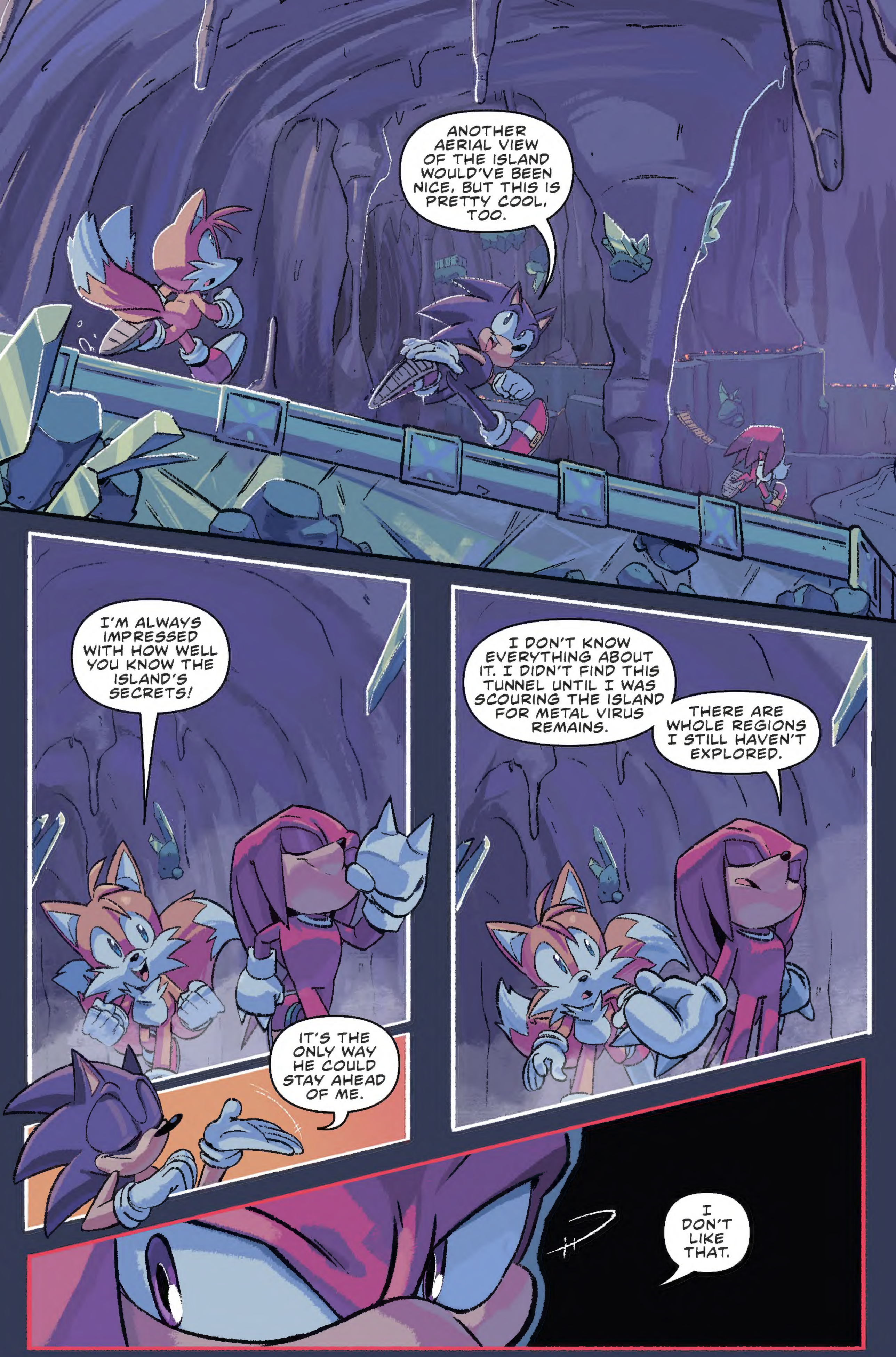
YOU SAID WE'RE HEADING TO MARBLE GARDEN, RIGHT? ISN'T THAT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND?


THAT'LL BE A LONG TRIP.
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, WE'LL NEED TO CLIMB RED MOUNTAIN, PASS THROUGH ICE CAP, AND DESCEND THROUGH THE CARNIVAL.


WOULD IT BE FASTER TO JUST GO BACK TO THE *TORNADO?* OR TAKE A SHORTCUT THROUGH HYDRO CITY?
YOU MEAN HYDROCITY?

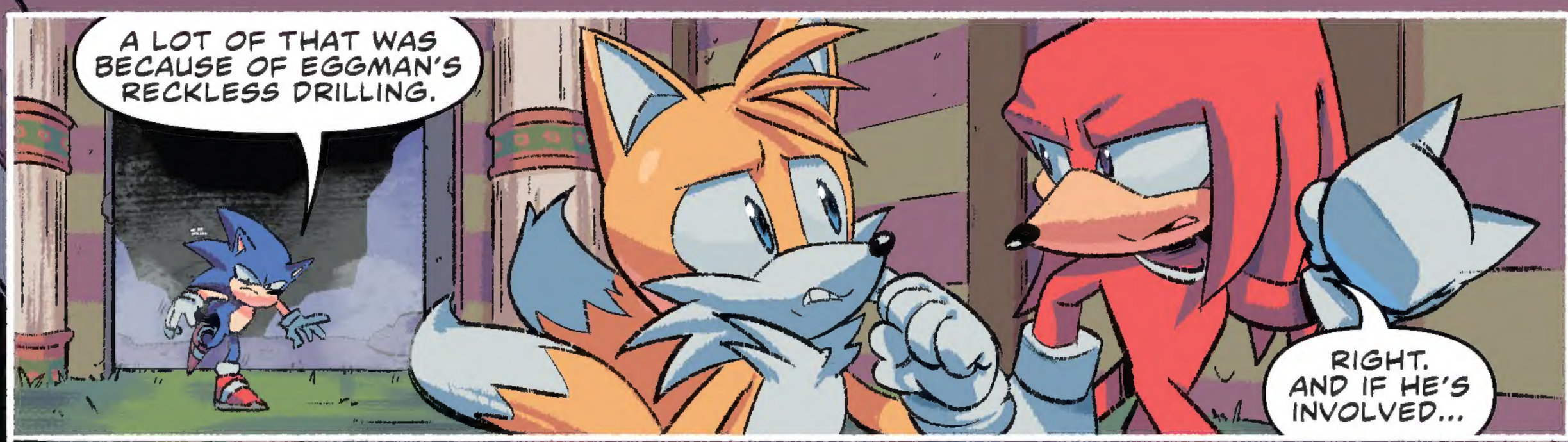

NO. IT'S AN ANCIENT CITY FULL OF WATER. *HYDRO CITY.*
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S *HYDROCITY.*


IT'S MOOT. WE'LL TAKE THIS SHORTCUT.


ANOTHER AERIAL VIEW OF THE ISLAND WOULD'VE BEEN NICE, BUT THIS IS PRETTY COOL, TOO.
I'M ALWAYS IMPRESSED WITH HOW WELL YOU KNOW THE ISLAND'S SECRETS!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY HE COULD STAY AHEAD OF ME.
I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. I DIDN'T FIND THIS TUNNEL UNTIL I WAS SCOURING THE ISLAND FOR METAL VIRUS REMAINS.
THERE ARE WHOLE REGIONS I STILL HAVEN'T EXPLORED.
I DON'T LIKE THAT.

MARBLE GARDEN. EVERYBODY OUT.

THIS PLACE WAS PRETTY UNSTABLE THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.
YEAH, AND THE QUAKES HAVE ONLY GOTTEN WORSE. WATCH YOUR STEP.


A LOT OF THAT WAS BECAUSE OF EGGMAN'S RECKLESS DRILLING.
RIGHT. AND IF HE'S INVOLVED...

WHA-

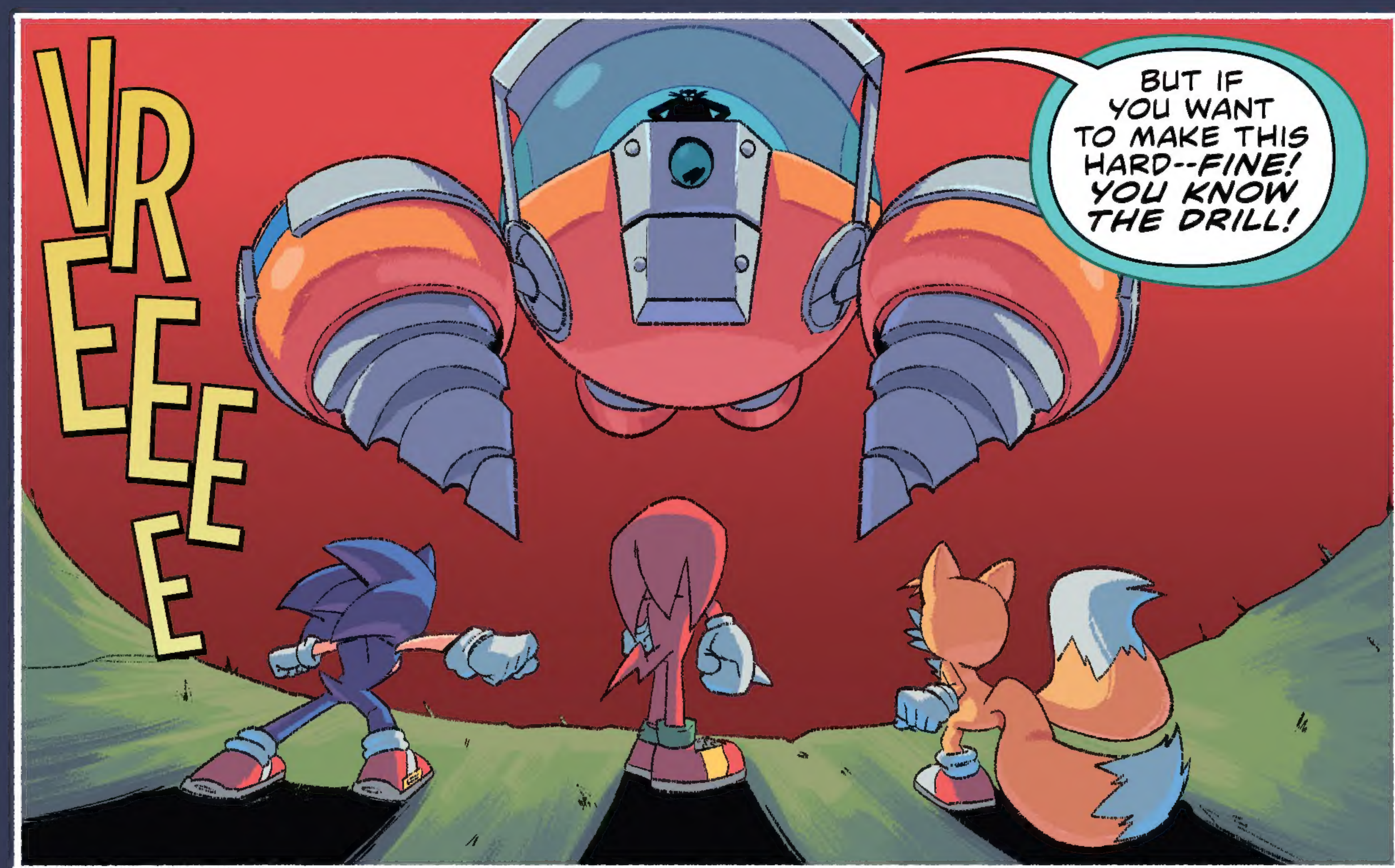
BOOM

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

THIS IS MY HOME!

NOT YOU! THE BLUE RAT AND THE BRAT!
WE'RE SPECIAL GUESTS, WHERE AS YOU'RE AN UNINVITED ONE.

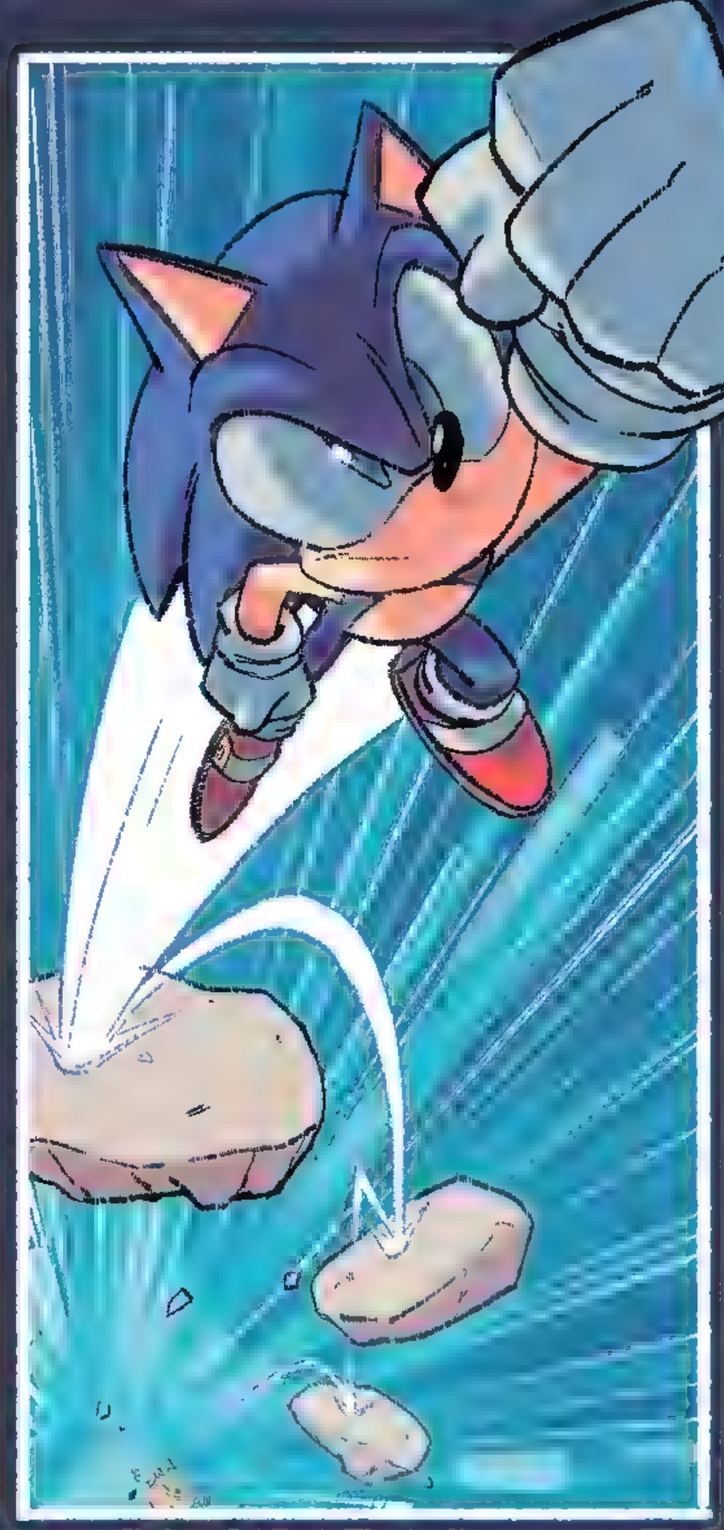
I WAS HAVING A FINE TIME MINING FOR RARE MINERALS!

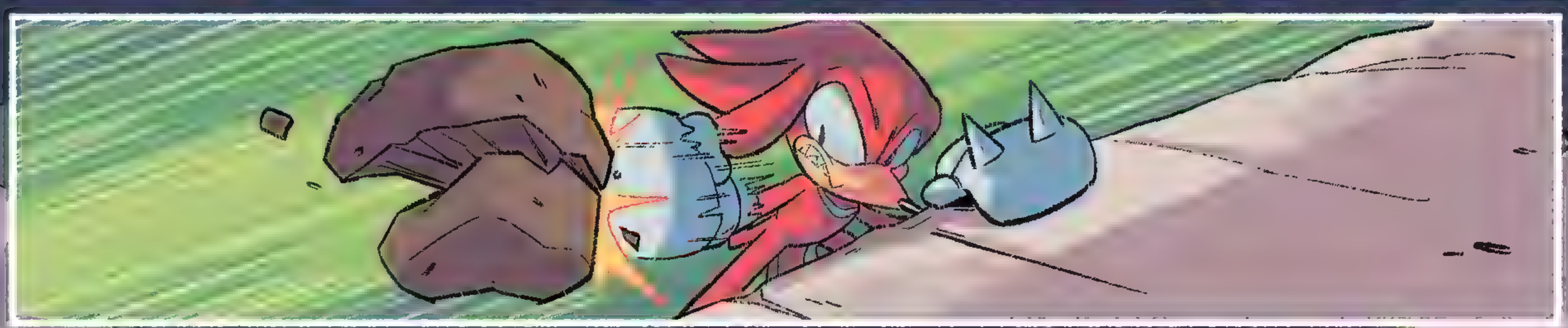

VREEEE
BUT IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THIS HARD--FINE! YOU KNOW THE DRILL!

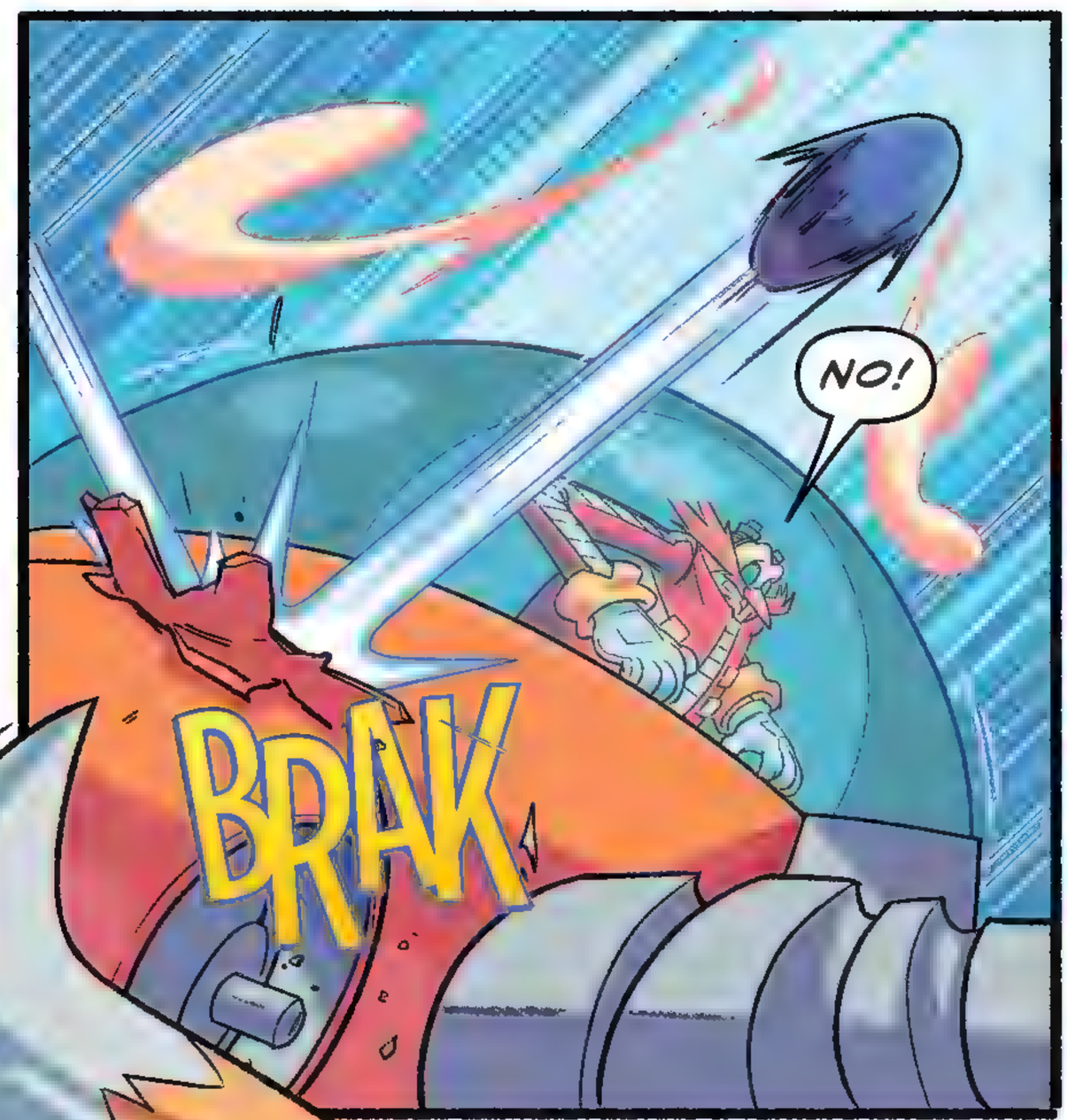
BRRRRK
HEY!
HA!
WHAM
CRACK

ENOUGH! TIME TO BURY YOU THREE ALIVE!
SONIC!

GOTCHA!
KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU!






NO!
BRAK

NO!
BOOM

NOOO!

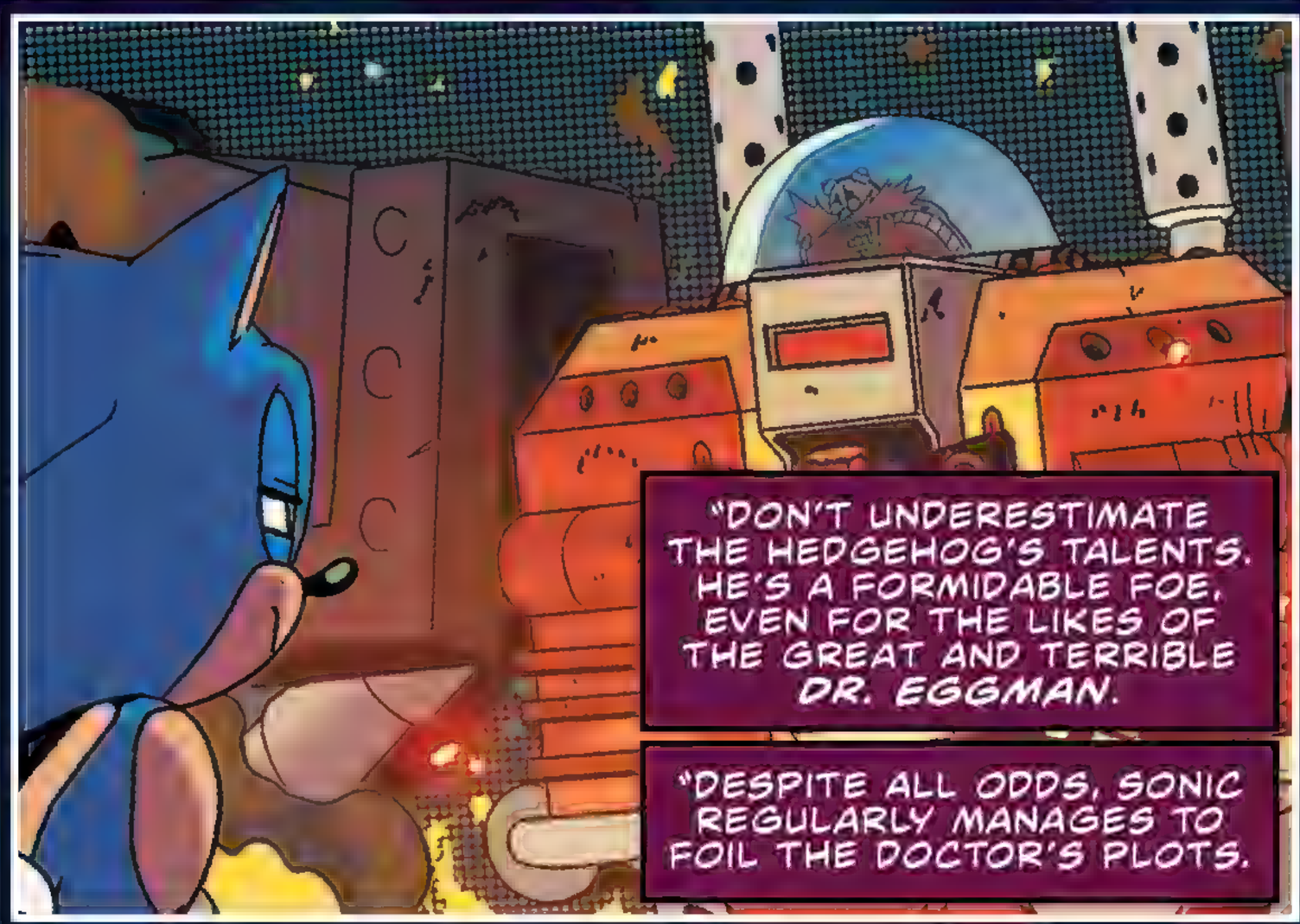
I STILL TORE UP SOME REAL ESTATE!
I CAN STILL CLAIM A VICTORY, YOU FOOLS!

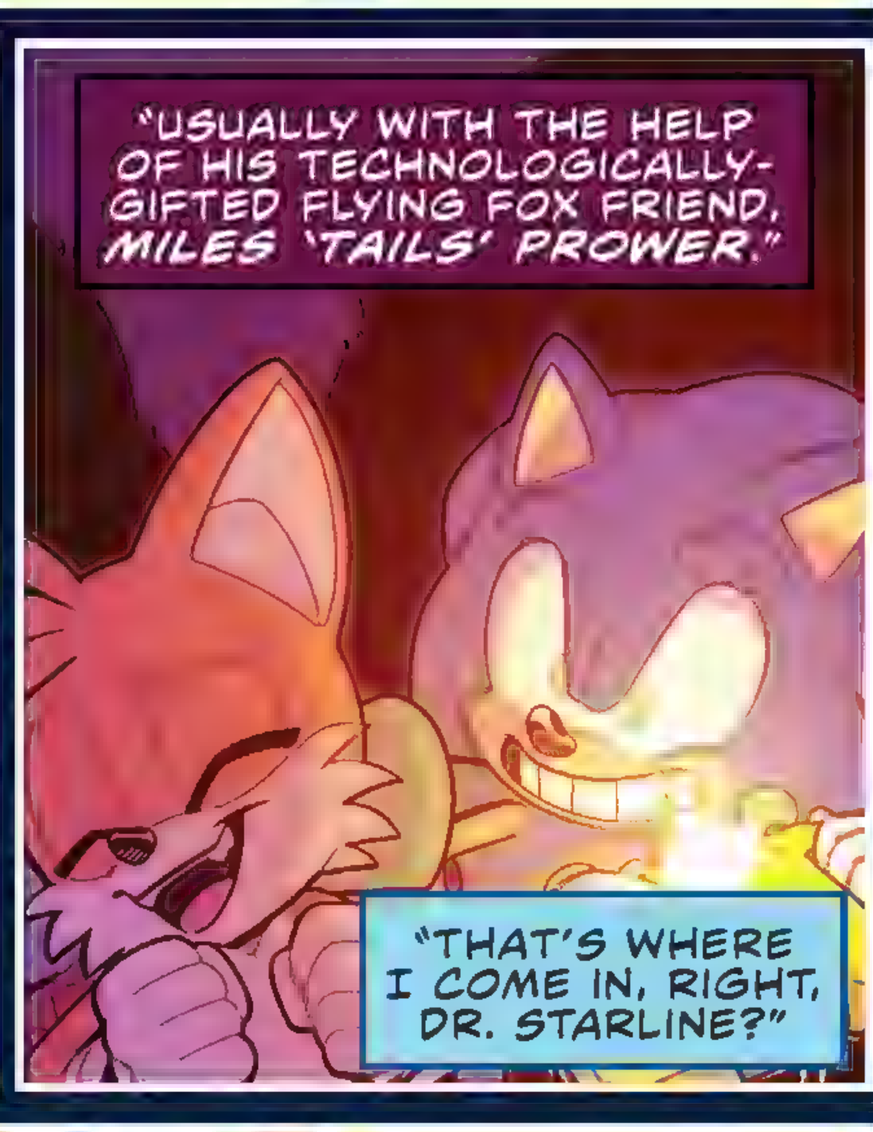
WE DECISIVELY BEAT YOU!
WELP. EGGMAN WAS CAUSING THE RUMBLINGS AND WE SENT HIM PACKING.
I THINK YOU'RE IN THE CLEAR FOR A BIT, KNUX.
HOPEFULLY.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO FLY BACK WITH US. RELAX A BIT, MAYBE SEE WHAT'S BEEN DONE WITH RESTORATION HQ?
I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT I'LL PASS.

I REALIZE NOW THERE'RE STILL MYSTERIES ON THIS ISLAND TO BE UNCOVERED.
I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I'VE FOUND THEM ALL.

WELL IF YOU NEED BACK-UP AGAIN, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US.
SURE. THANKS FOR THE HELP.
ANY TIME, BUDDY.
END.





PRELUDE TO DISASTER

"PERHAPS A MORE CONCRETE EXAMPLE WOULD WORK IT'S WAY THROUGH. NOT LONG AGO, THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MIND IN THE WORLD WAS REDUCED TO A PATHETIC SHELL OF HIS FORMER SELF, MR. TINKER, AFTER SUFFERING A TEMPORARY LOSS TO THE HEDGEHOG.

"HIS ONLY REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT AT THE TIME, THOUGH NEITHER I NOR THE HEROES KNEW IT, WAS AN ASSISTANT, BELLE."
"THE FLAMMABLE ONE."
"INDEED, AND AN UNEXPECTED SPLINTER IN OUR FINGER, THOUGH NOT WHOLLY WITHOUT HER USES...

"...WHILE THE DOCTOR WAS MISSING, AN IMPOSTER TOOK HIS PLACE.

"THE UPGRADED METAL SONIC BOASTED THE DOCTOR'S BIO-SIGNATURE AND COMMANDED THE EGGMAN EMPIRE."

"HOWEVER, HE LACKED THE DOCTOR'S VISION, DECIDING ONCE AGAIN TO GO AFTER THE *MASTER EMERALD* AND EMPOWER HIMSELF TO A *SUPERIOR* STATE.

"EVEN AT FULL POWER AS *MASTER OVERLORD*, HE WAS DEFEATED. HE HAD INHERITED ONE OF DR. EGGMAN'S GREATEST FLAWS: *OVERCONFIDENCE*. SOUND FAMILIAR?"

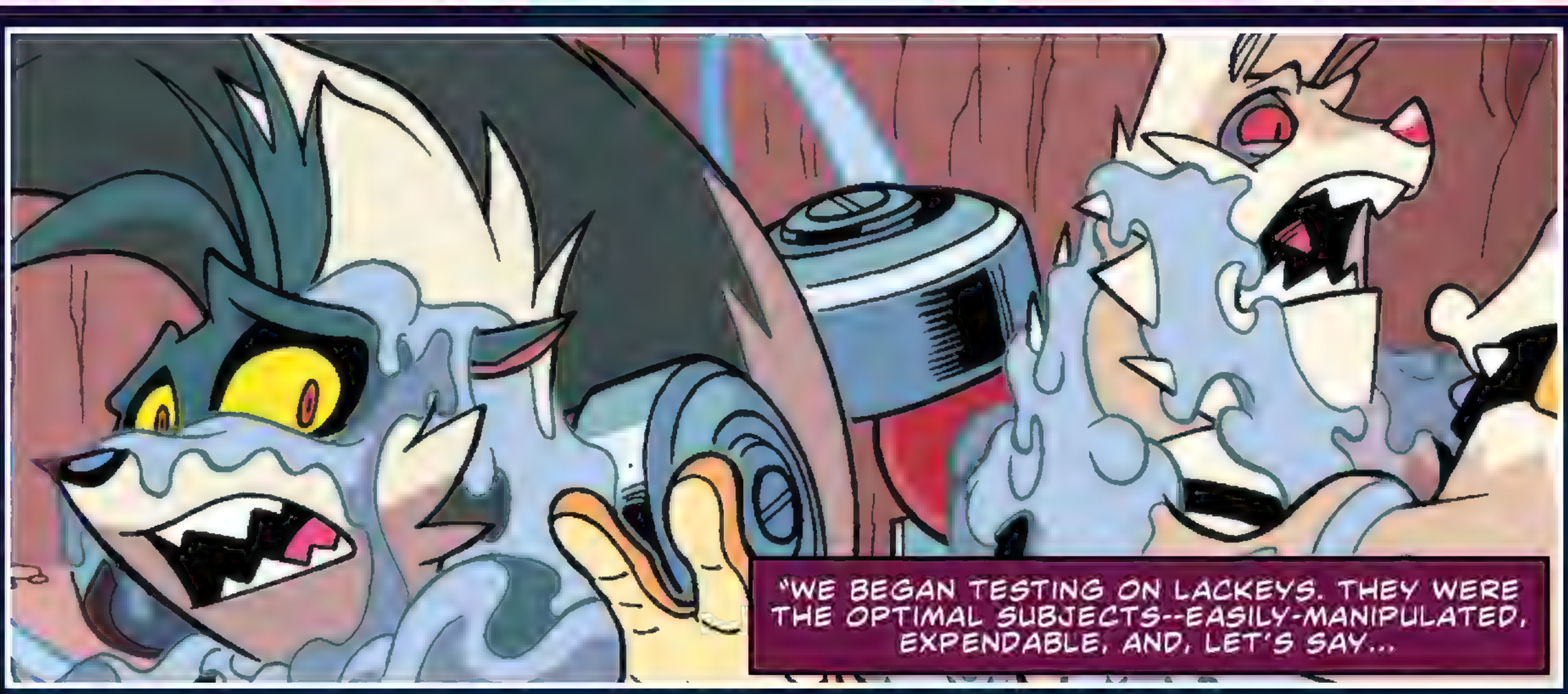
BEGONE PARASITES!

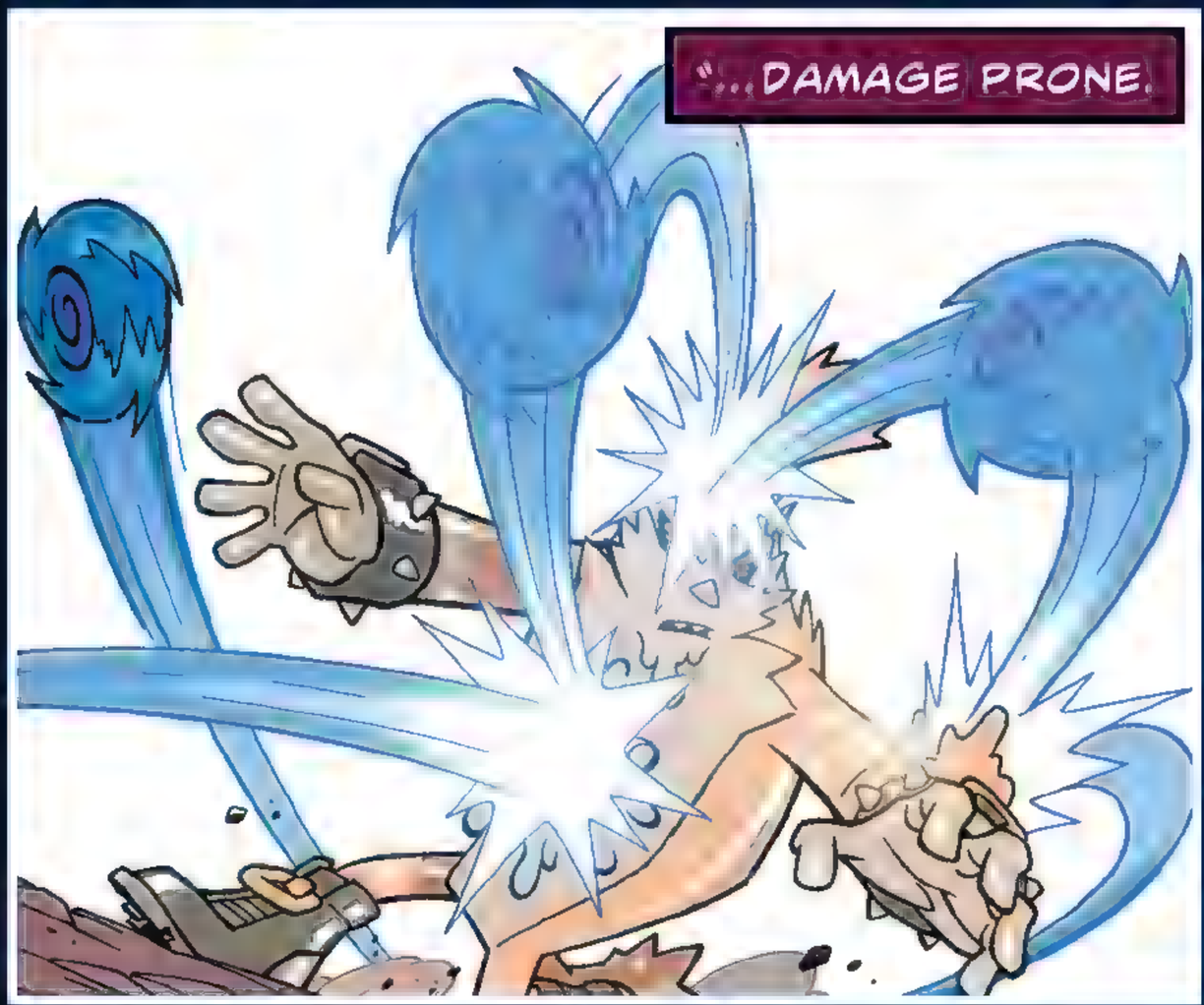
"...*NAH*. THAT'S WHAT SEPARATES US FROM THE SLUSH, DOC, I CAN BACK MY CONFIDENCE UP."

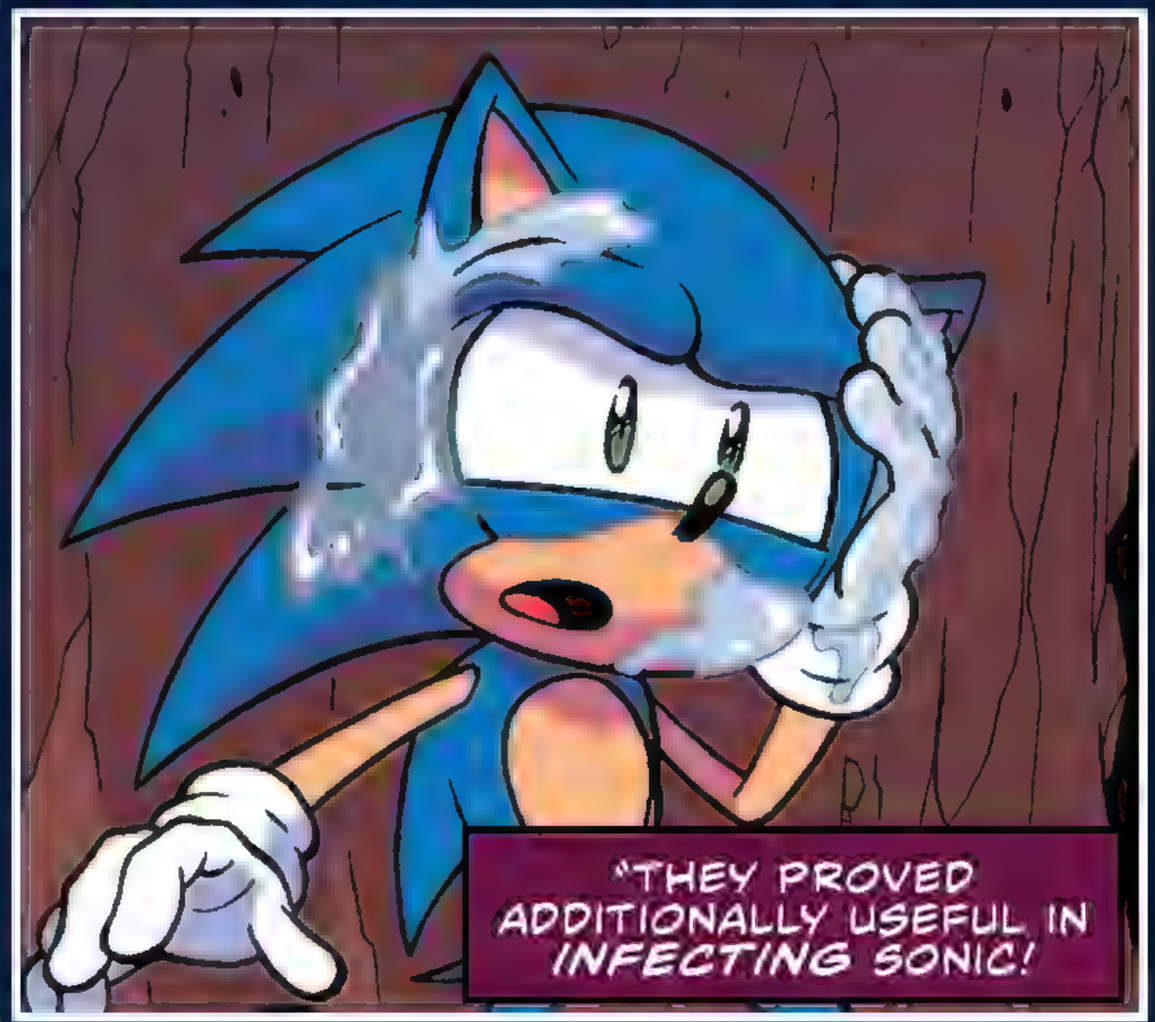
"FORTUNATELY, METAL SONIC HAD HIS USES. HIS DISTRACTING THE HEROES GAVE MY GOONS TIME TO RECLAIM MR. TINKER.

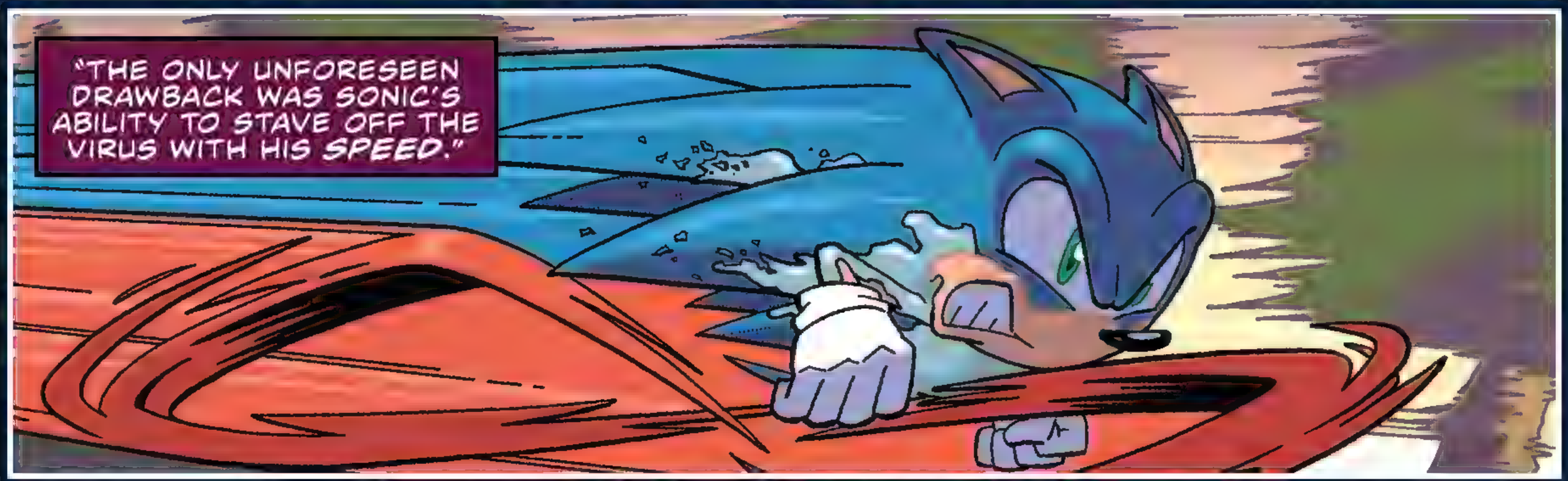
"AND METAL SONIC PROVED TO BE THE FINAL KEY I NEEDED TO AWAKEN DR. EGGMAN'S REVOLUTIONARY MIND ONCE AGAIN."

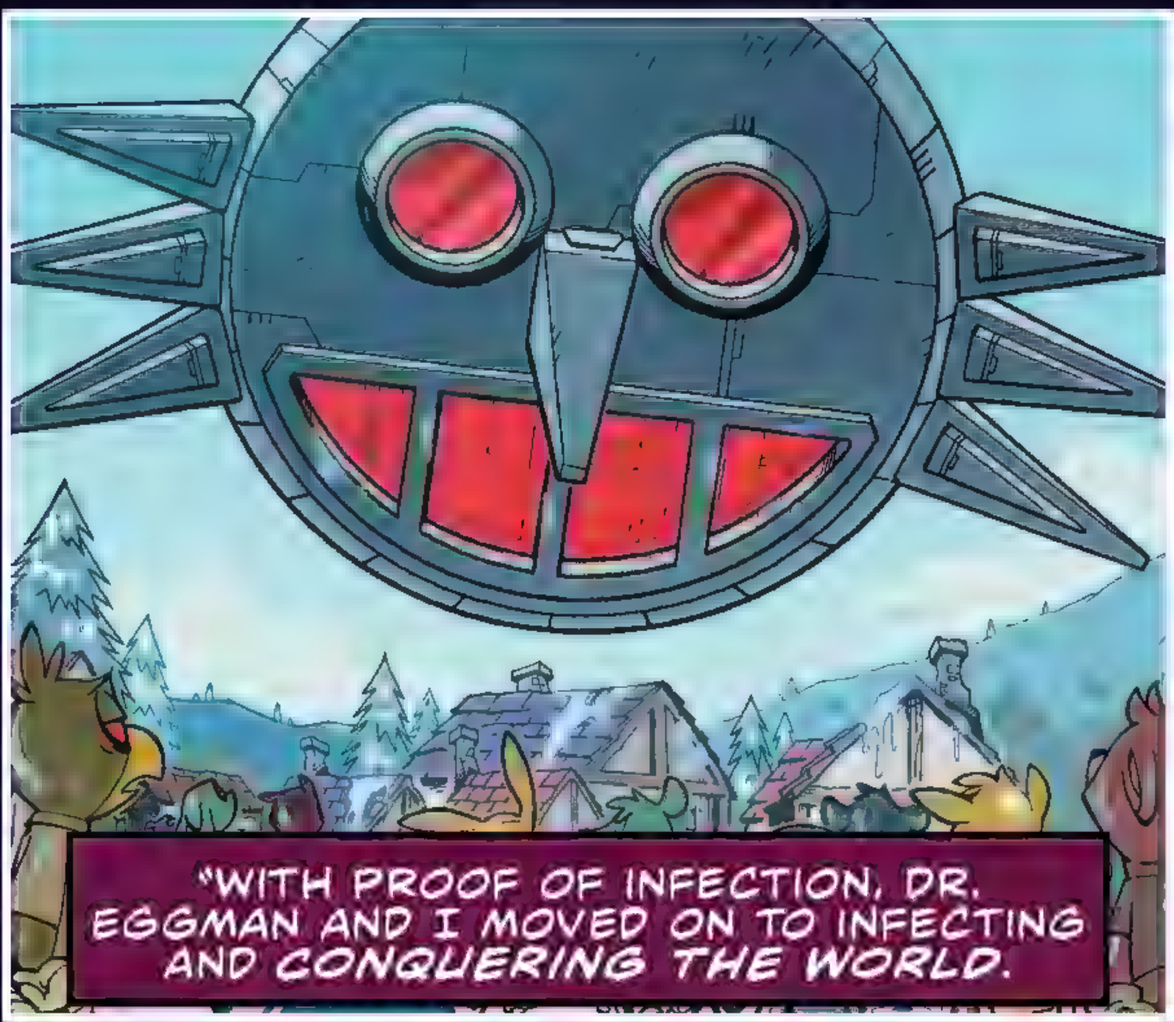
"FOR A BRIEF TIME, ALL WAS GOOD. DR. EGGMAN PRODUCED A NIGH-MASTERPIECE WITH THE *METAL VIRUS*, AND I WAS LEARNING AT HIS SIDE.

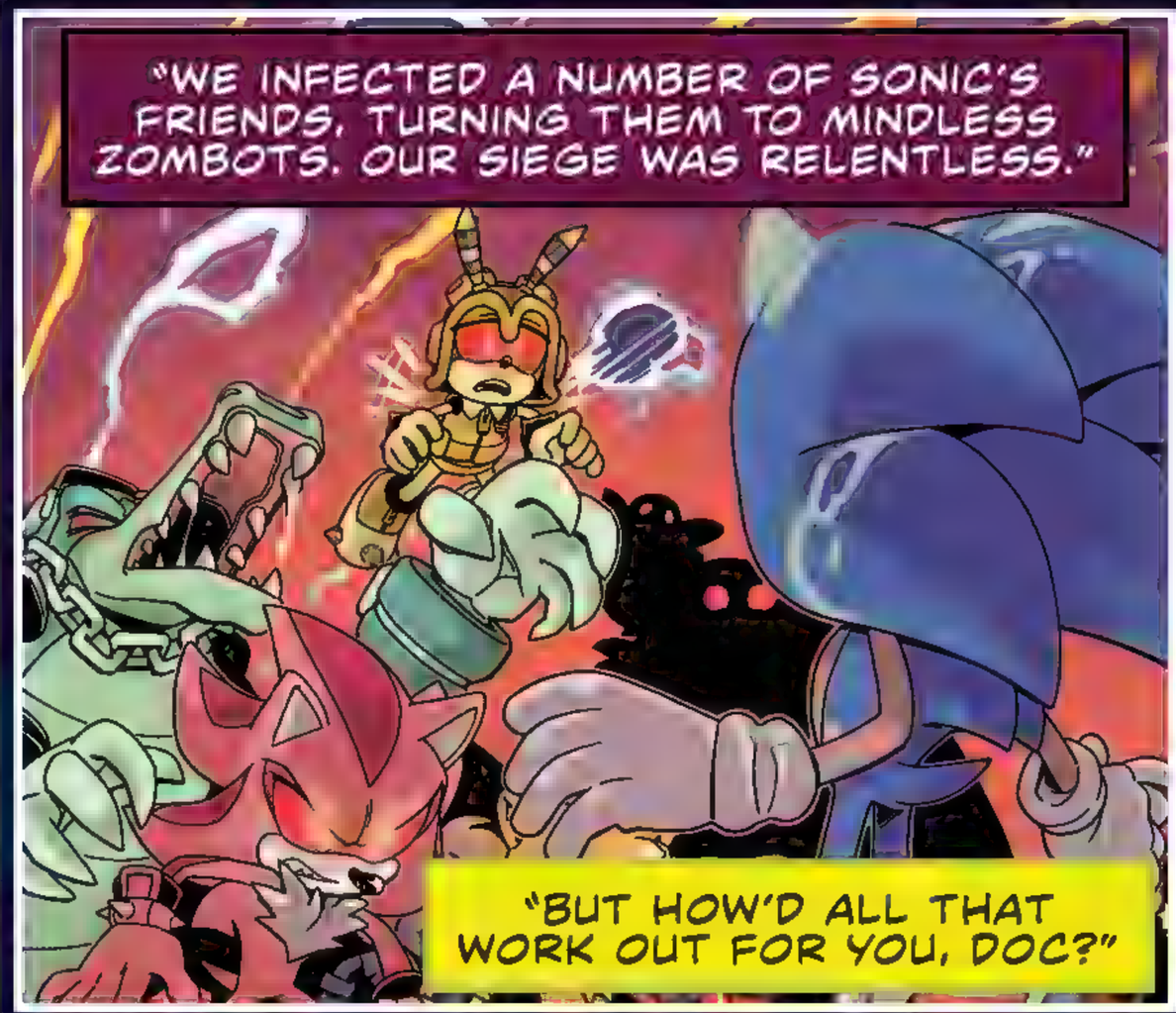


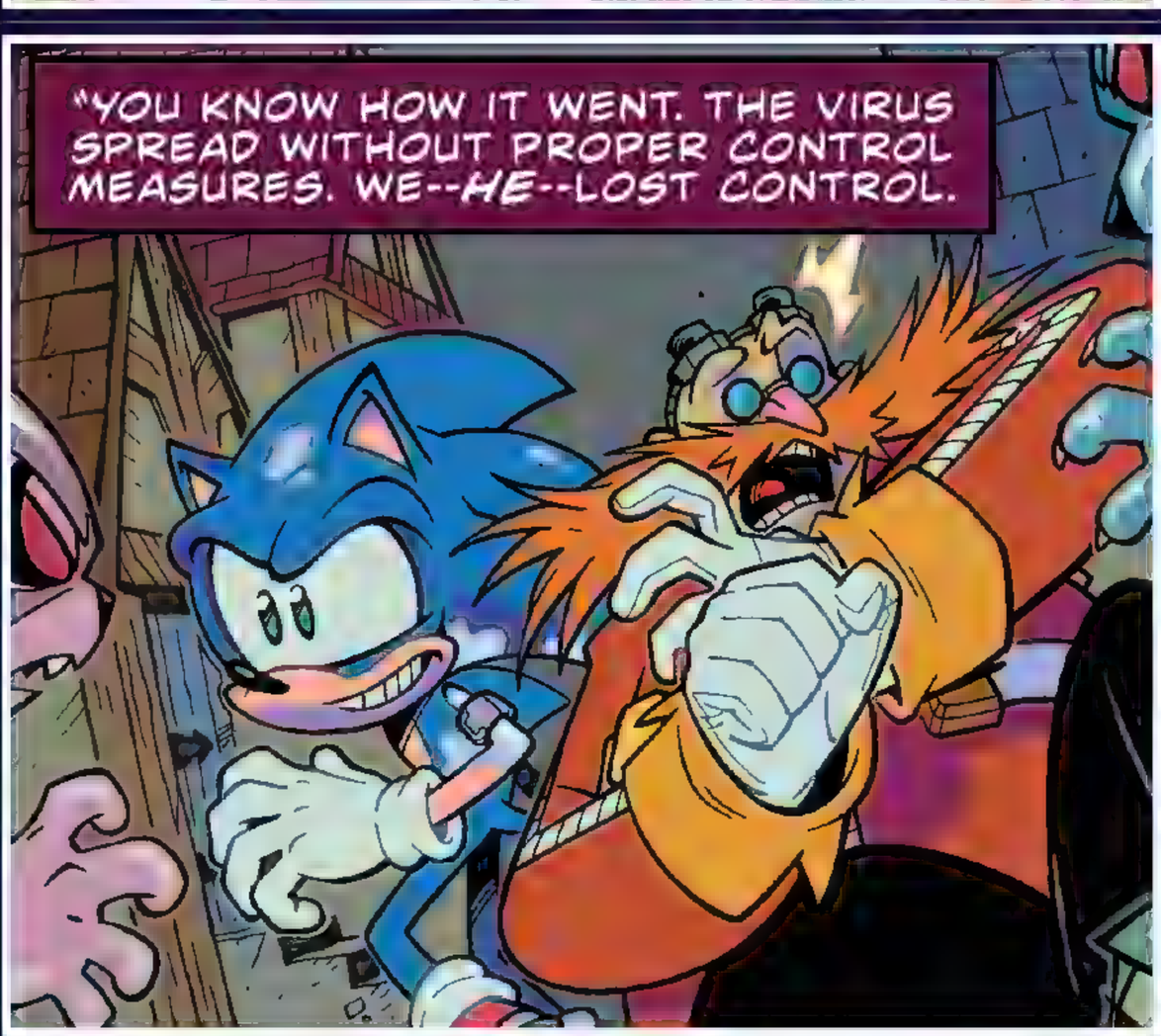


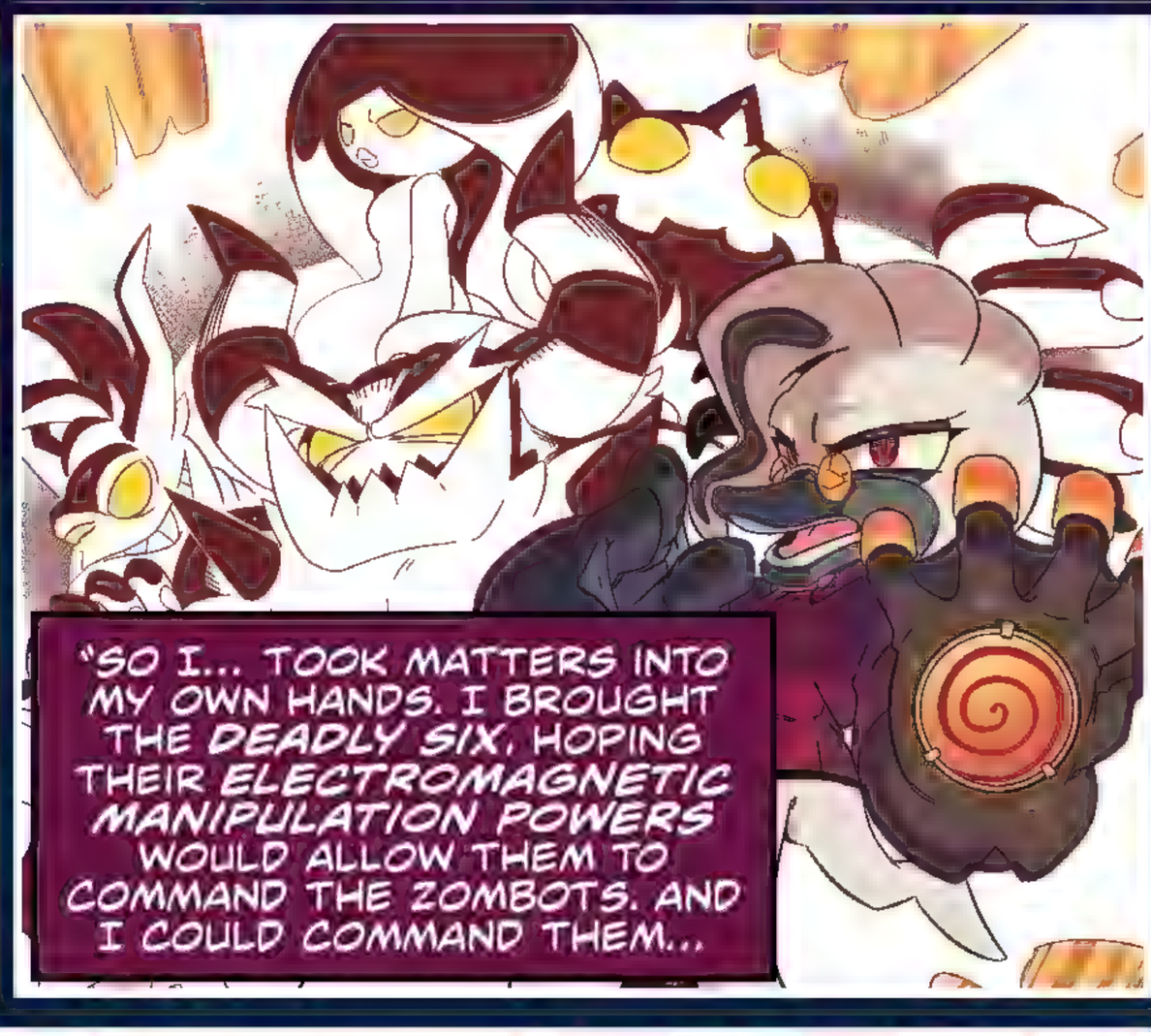




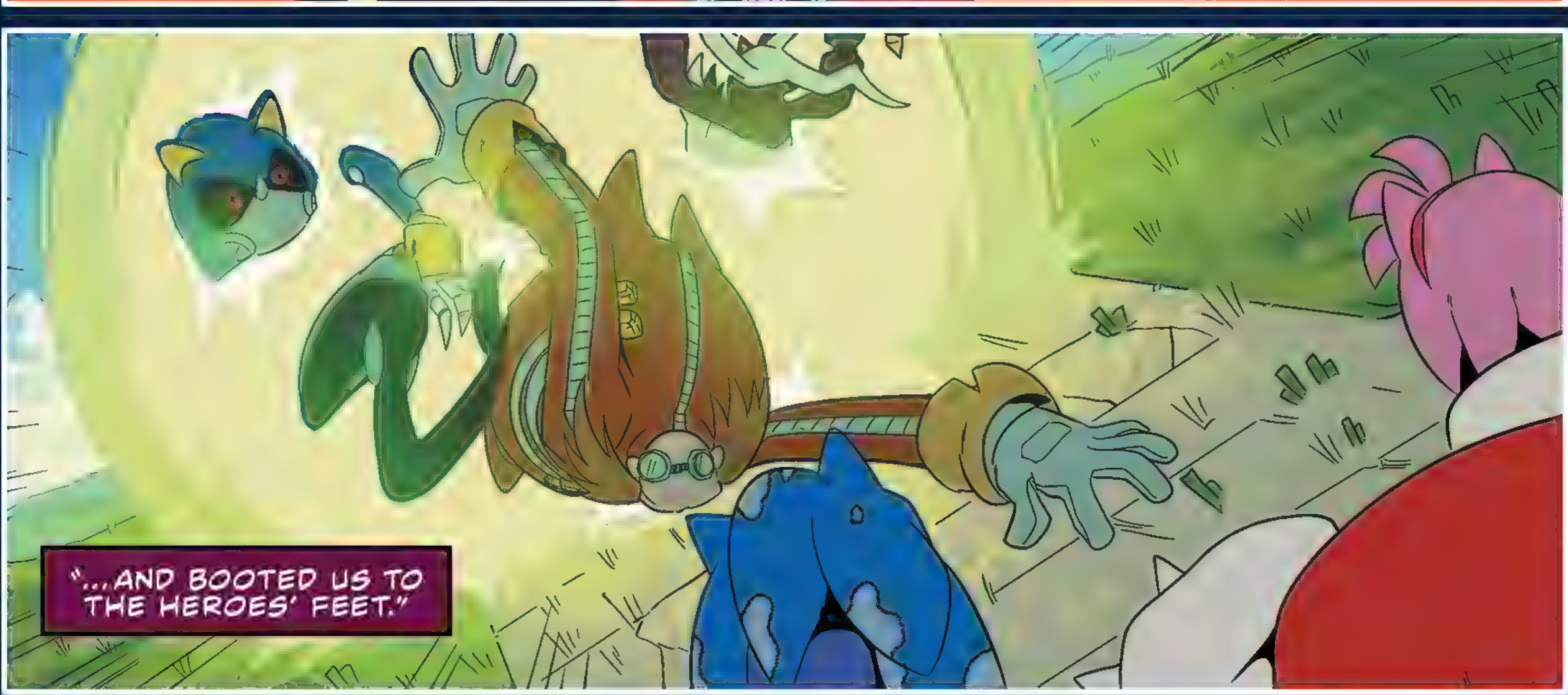

"WITH PROOF OF INFECTION, DR. EGGMAN AND I MOVED ON TO INFECTING AND CONQUERING THE WORLD.


"WE INFECTED A NUMBER OF SONIC'S FRIENDS, TURNING THEM TO MINDLESS ZOMBOTS. OUR SIEGE WAS RELENTLESS."
"BUT HOW'D ALL THAT WORK OUT FOR YOU, DOC?"


"YOU KNOW HOW IT WENT. THE VIRUS SPREAD WITHOUT PROPER CONTROL MEASURES. WE--HE--LOST CONTROL.

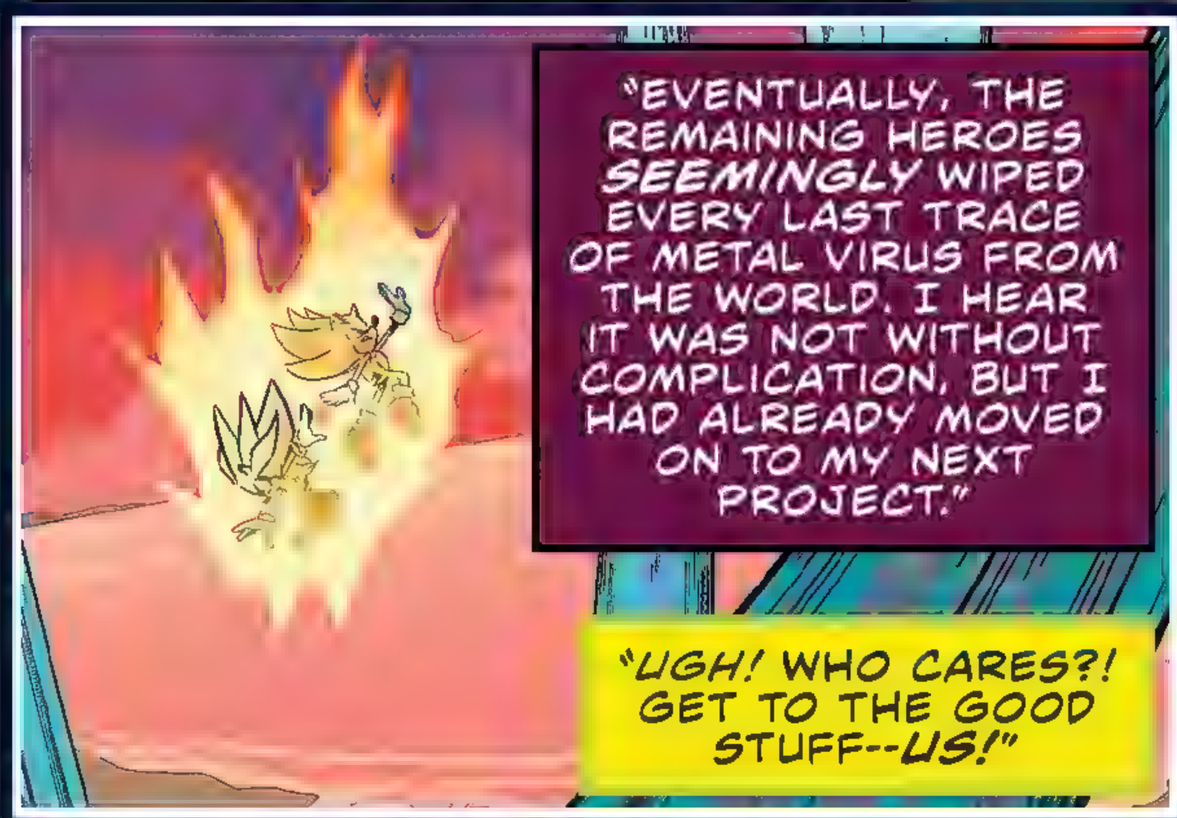

"SO I... TOOK MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS. I BROUGHT THE DEADLY SIX, HOPING THEIR ELECTROMAGNETIC MANIPULATION POWERS WOULD ALLOW THEM TO COMMAND THE ZOMBOTS. AND I COULD COMMAND THEM...

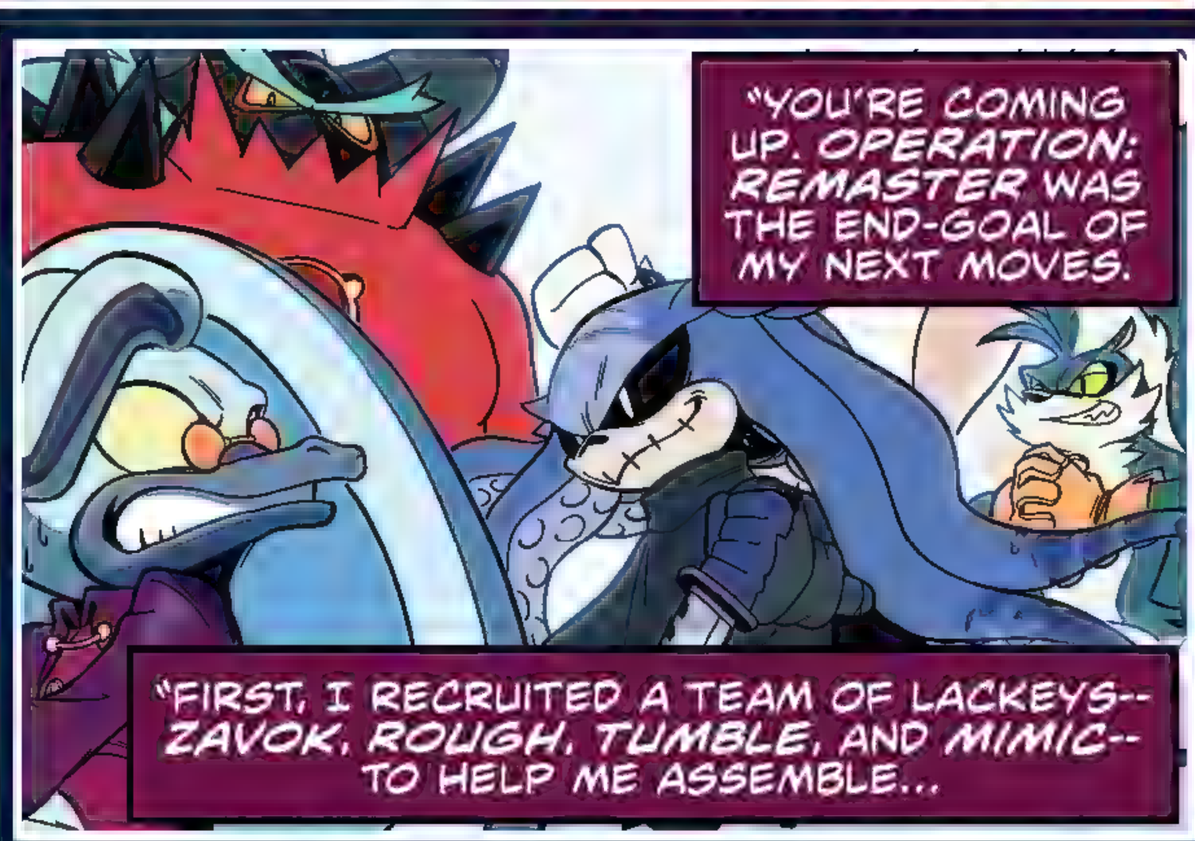
"...NO USE DWELLING. THEY TOOK MY CAREFULLY SECURED CHAOS EMERALDS...


"...AND BOOTED US TO THE HEROES' FEET."

"TRULY, THE *WORST* OF DAYS. MY MENTOR--MY HERO--*BETRAYED* ME. HE TOOK MY SPACE-ALTERING GEMSTONE, THE *WARP TOPAZ*. AND HE WORKED WITH SONIC AND FRIENDS...

"...TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM HIS OWN *INCOMPETENCE*.





"I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY ACCESS TO THE EGGNET TO ACCESS NEO METAL SONIC'S BIO-DATA FILES ON SONIC AND HIS RIVAL, *SHADOW*.

TIME TO GO, FOX.

"I ADDED IN MY WELL-TESTED KNOWLEDGE OF POWER CORES--LIKE THOSE IN MY TRICORE--AND I ACQUIRED A BIT OF ADDITIONAL BIO-DATA FROM SONIC'S MOST USEFUL ALLY, TAILS.

"AND WITH A FEW OTHER BITS OF RESEARCH, I COMPLETED THE PUZZLE.

"FINALLY, I WILL ACHIEVE MORE THAN DR. EGGMAN EVER HAS AND SHOW HIM WHAT TRUE PLANNING AND FOLLOW-THROUGH LOOK LIKE! I WILL REPLACE THEM ALL--BREAK THE BACK-AND-FORTH OF SONIC AND DR. EGGMAN--WITH PAWNS THAT BELIEVE THEY'RE SELF-DETERMINED, BUT ARE TOTALLY SUBSERVIENT TO ME AND ME ALONE!"

"UHH... WHAT WAS THAT, DOC? THINK I MUST'VE HAD SOMETHING IN MY EARS. DID YOU SAY WE'RE YOUR PAWNS?"

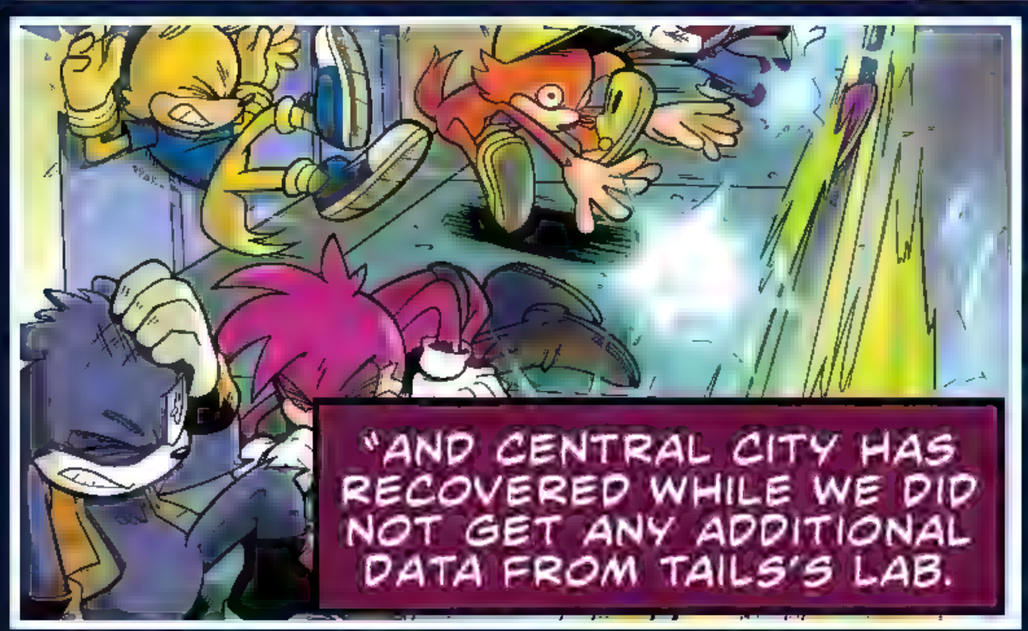
"HE A-AL-ALSO SAID WE'RE BUILT TO BE SUB-SUB-SUBSERVIENT, SURGE."

"I HEARD HIM, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS! YOU MESSIN' WITH US, DOC?!"

AAAND REBOOT.

"THEY'RE GETTING STRONGER, EVEN IF THEY CAN'T MAKE IT THROUGH A FULL DEBRIEFING. OUR TRACK RECORD MATCHES THE DOCTOR'S.

"THEY MAY NOT HAVE TAKEN OUT SONIC'S FRIENDS WITH THE FIRE.


"AND CENTRAL CITY HAS RECOVERED WHILE WE DID NOT GET ANY ADDITIONAL DATA FROM TAILS'S LAB.

"BUT WE CONQUERED EGG BASE ALPHA.

"THEY'RE READY.

"AND ANYONE-- BE THEY SONIC, DR. EGGMAN, OR OTHERWISE--WHO TAKES ON SURGE AND KIT BETTER WATCH OUT."
TO BE CONTINUED IN SONIC #50!

ART ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hi, pals! Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Bracardi Curry, and Shawn Lee for another fun Free Comic Book Day story! And don't forget to pick up issue #50, out in June, now that you're all caught up! Now, on to your art.

COSPLAY BY ATREYU

COSPLAY BY KRISTY

ACTION FIGURE BY GARRETT

ART BY ASHLEY

ART BY CARLO

ART BY ALEXANDER

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook!

THEY'RE BAD. AND THEY'RE BACK!

DR. STARLINE HAS A NEFARIOUS PLAN, BUT HE'LL HAVE TO RECRUIT SOME FAMILIAR AND NOT-SO-FRIENDLY FACES TO DO IT!

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